

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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Last winter an unsuccessful effort was made in this State to establish a Hall of Archives, with the same ends in view as those which have prompted a like step in Alabama. Connected also with this movement is the establishment of a bi-monthly journal to be known as "The Gulf States Historical Magazine," to be devoted to history, literature and criticism, with especial reference to the Gulf States and adjacent territory. In speaking of these efforts for the perpetuation of records, the "Tennessee Historical Society Quarterly" says:

The State of Alabama has taken an advance step in the establishment of a Department of Archives and History, and making a liberal appropriation for the maintenance of the same. The objects of the department are the care and custody of the State archives, collection of material bearing on the history of the State, publication of official records and other historical materials, and the encouragement of research and the diffusion of knowledge with reference to the history and resources of the State.

The department is under the immediate charge of Thomas M. Owens, who has been elected director by the board of trustees. The director is an enthusiastic antiquarian, an able historian, and an energetic and persistent worker. Circular No. 1 of the Department shows that the director has laid out his work in a most intelligent, orderly and comprehensive manner, and the State of Alabama is to be congratulated upon the organization of this timely movement, especially by Tennessee, in which *there is not a complete file of the publications of any department of the State.*

That last remark will equally apply to the State of Iowa. Should it not be corrected at the earliest possible date?

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MILLARD FILLMORE, who retired from the Presidency in 1853, visited our State in June, 1855. He came to Rock Island at the opening of the C. R. I. & P. R. R. to that point, and thence by steamboat to Dubuque, where he had an informal but enthusiastic reception. State Senator P. W. Crawford, who was present, gives an account of the affair in *The Telegraph-Herald* of Sept. 17, 1902.

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